

Critical Days of Summer Safety Campaign 2020

Week 13 of 16



Getting Around Safely

Whether you're walking, riding a bike, or driving a car; being safe means knowing and following the rules. Here in Japan, that means learning some new ones and making some adjustments.

Driving your Car

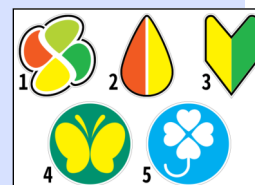
- Speeds are much slower here than in the US. Plan ahead so you don't have to rush.
- Stay alert for motorcycles, bikes, and pedestrians popping up on your left side.
- Watch for school children. Off-base they will raise their hand or use yellow flags when crossing the street.
- You must stop at ALL train crossings before proceeding over the tracks.
- You cannot turn left on a red light.
- Watch for buses at bus stops. They will use their blinkers to show when they are pulling out. Always give way to them.
- Always give way to emergency vehicles. Note that police cars often drive with their lights on even when not responding to a call. If they want you to pull over, they will get your attention.
- If you get in an accident, you must call PMO yourself or wait for the Japanese police to do so. **Do not** leave the scene until they arrive.
- Do not drink and drive. For all practical purposes, Japan has a zero-tolerance policy. Not One Drop!
- Stay off your cellphone! Even just holding your cellphone while driving is against Japanese law.
- Obey the law, remain calm, and be courteous to other drivers and people around you!



Drinking and Driving in Japan

- Not One Drop!
- Limit is 0.03 which means you could be above the limit after a couple of sips of your drink.
- Passengers will be prosecuted as well as the driver.
- Rules are the same for bicycles. You will get a DUI.
- OPTIONS:
 - Designated Driver
 - Taxi
 - Daiko service (they drive your car home)
 - Walking

You may have seen these stickers on Japanese cars. Each has a different meaning: 1 & 2 Elderly driver, 3 Beginner driver, 4 Hearing impaired, 5 Handicapped. These stickers are readily available in many stores. However it is illegal for SOFA drivers to drive with any of these on their car.



Scooters, Skateboards, and More

- Scooters (non-motorized), Heelys, roller skates/blades, and skateboards **are not** considered legal modes of transportation and **are not authorized** to be on any roadway, **on or off base**.
- These items may only be used on sidewalks when not interfering with pedestrian traffic or in designated areas, such as MCCS skate parks. All public parking lots aboard the Air Station are designated as "off limits" to skateboards, roller blades/skates and scooters.
- Powered scooters, skateboard, pocket bikes, go-karts, and other similar equipment not meeting DOT motor vehicle standards for public roadways will not be used on MCAS Iwakuni roadways.
- Approved Snell or ANSI helmet is required. Knee and elbow pads, and gloves shall also be worn.

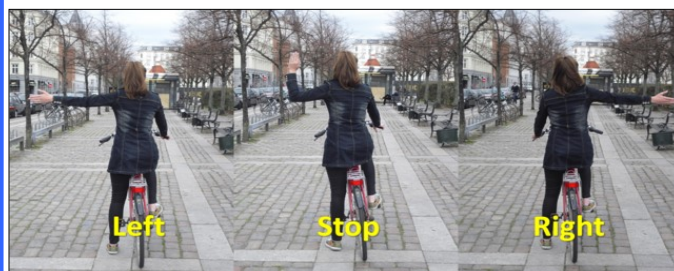


Walking, Jogging, and Running

- Use the sea wall as much as possible when running and jogging.
- Wear bright clothes during the day for visibility. At night, you must wear reflective clothing or belt.
- Use crosswalks when crossing the road. Stop and check for traffic before leaving the sidewalk.
- If you are crossing the road where there is no marked crosswalk, you **MUST** yield to all traffic.
- You **MUST** use the sidewalk if it's available. If there is no sidewalk, stay as far from the roadway as possible.
- Walking while looking at your phone can be very dangerous. Stop, use your phone, then continue on.

Riding your Bike

- Fit the bicycle to the rider. Children should be able to sit on the bike with their feet flat on the ground.
- An approved bicycle helmet is required on and off-base. Never buy a used helmet. **Fasten the chinstrap!**
- Crash and trash. If you fall off your bike and hit your head, replace the helmet.
- Wear bright clothes during the day and reflective clothing at night.
- Use hand signals and make eye contact with car drivers, pedestrians, and other bicyclists.



- Follow the same road rules as cars. Stop at all stop signs.
- Avoid riding at night. If you must, make sure you have a white front light and red rear light or reflector.
- Don't get distracted and expect the unexpected.

Per MCASO 5560.8B, the wearing of head-phones, earphones, or other listening devices while running, jogging, walking, or within 3 feet of any traveled portion of any street, roadway, highway, avenue, or parking lot is prohibited on-base except at approved locations. The only approved locations aboard the base are the seawall, sports tracks, and the Atago sports center.



Questions? Contact the MCAS Iwakuni Station Safety Center.